

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A portable extender adapted for use by a visiting nurse ~~to access patient data stored in one or more implantable medical devices (IMDs)~~, the extender comprising:

~~means for positively identifying the visiting nurse~~ a video camera;

~~means for establishing a wireless data communication with the one or more IMDs~~ a medical device implanted in [(the)] a patient being visited by the nurse;

~~means for downloading patient diagnostic data from the one or more IMDs; and~~ medical device

~~a touch screen coupled to~~ and providing means for a user to activate the video camera, the said means for identifying, said means for establishing the wireless data communication, and the said means for downloading data providing a user input to activate same; and
~~computer implemented software for planning and organizing a daily schedule of patient visits for the visiting nurse among a plurality of patients.~~

2. – 4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) The extender of claim [(4)] 1 wherein the extender further comprises a means for transferring video images collected by the video camera ~~said images are transferred~~ to a remote location.

6. Cancelled

7. (Original) The portable extender of claim 1, further ~~including~~ comprising a GPS system ~~imbedded to enable the nurse to plot a most efficient sequence of visits to patients scheduled at a given time.~~

8. Cancelled

9. (Currently amended) The portable extender of claim 1, further comprising means to transfer the diagnostic data to a remote location wherein data is transferred via a wireless communication link including one of a cellular and satellite system.

10. - 14. Cancelled

15. (New) The extender of claim 1, further comprising a cell phone including a microphone.

16. (New) The extender of claim 1, further comprising a data storage disk.

17. (New) The extender of claim 1, further comprising computer implemented software for planning and organizing a daily schedule of patient visits for the visiting nurse.

18. (New) A method for managing chronic home care of patients, the method comprising:

scheduling a visit to a particular patient according to a plot of a sequence of patient visits provided by a portable extender;

receiving diagnostic data into the extender from an IMD implanted in the patient;

accessing treatment and prescription plans for the patient, via the extender;

contacting and conducting two-way verbal communication with an expert at a remote location, via the extender, the communication concerning patient status and diagnosis; and

transferring the received diagnostic data from the IMD to the remote location via the extender.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing identifying information, via the extender, in order to gain access to the treatment and prescription plans.

20. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising transferring video images collected by the extender, via the extender, to the remote location.